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16. INTERNATIONAL ASPECTS OF TERRORISM WITH A SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON CHEMICAL TERRORISM

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ABSTRACT

Contrary to the past, in the last 20 years the motivation, strategy and weapons of the terrorists have considerably changed. Terrorists have started with an increased acquisition and even development of weapons for mass destruction. The fact that a large number of scientific and technological achievements in chemistry have a both civil and military use makes the danger even larger, because it is almost impossible to legally restrain the access of terrorists to certain chemicals. In addition to that, the inefficient border control, the inefficacy of certain government authorities, the lack of a strong political will, etc., are additional reasons that make it difficult to stop illegal transfer of dangerous chemicals.

From a strategic point of view, the approach to the chemical terrorism should be the same as to conventional terrorism: specific legal regulations, adequate intelligence, special equipment based on advanced technologies, physical security of weapon sources, and supervised and controlled exports. In this paper, we point out the existing international legal instruments, with the aim of answering the question of whether the existing general international mechanisms for fighting terrorism are sufficient and effective for fighting chemical terrorism. Moreover, we review the relevant provisions in Croatian legislation, as well as those in the relevant bilateral international agreements of the Republic of Croatia.

KEYWORDS

Terrorism, chemicals, legislation, international agreement, non-proliferation

(This paper was not presented)